(b) Government are aware that in the recent past, there have been instances of Indian children being used as camel riders in the Gulf. In all known instances, Indian Embassies got in touch with the local government and got the children repatriated.

Recently, there have been cases where agents engaged in smuggling of children from India for camel riding have been stopped at the airport and appropriate action has been taken against these recruiting agents. Law enforcement agencies have been alerted to take all necessary measures.

Sri Lankan offer to take back all Tamil refugees

289. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Government has offered to take back all the Tamil refugees from Tamil Nadu and has assured to look after them with adequate security;

(b) if so, the number of Tamil refugees who came to Tamil Nadu during the past three months;

(c) the details of the assistance provided by the Central Government; and

(d) the reaction of the Central Government on the offer made by Sri Lankan Government to take back all refugees?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) A statement to this effect was made in the Sri Lankan Parliament by the Sri Lankan Minister of State for Defence.

(b) From 1.5.90 to 31.7.90, 47241 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have come to Tamil Nadu.

(c) The Central Government meets the expenditure incurred by the State Government on the refugees and on an average incurs an expenditure of approximately Rs. 1,000 per month on a family of five. This includes cash doles, clothing subsidised ration facilities etc.

(d) Government welcome the offer. But in the ultimate analysis the return of refugees to their homes can only be motivated by the return of peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka.

Expiry of visas of foreigners in India

290. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreigners are overstaying in the country despite the expiry of their visas;

(b) if so, the number of foreigners overstaying in the country;

(c) what action Government have taken against them so far; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to send them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Some foreigners, mostly Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals, are reported to be overstaying in the country.

(b) A State-wise statement giving the number of Pakistan nationals overstaying in the country as on 31.12.1989 is attached. (*See* below). As regards the number of Bangladeshi or other nationals overstaying in the country, no reliable statistics is available.

(c) As and when any foreigners overstays and is detected under the foreigners Act/Rules is taken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to either prosecute him or deport him.

(d) The State authorities have been directed to take effective measures to deport overstaying foreigners.